



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

County Counsel  
Chief Information Officer

At its meeting held November 15, 2005, the Board took the following action:

37-A

Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“As many people are aware, there is a long running patent dispute between the maker of the increasingly popular and ubiquitous ‘Blackberry’ hand-held email devices manufactured by Research in Motion, Ltd. and the patent holder NTP, Inc. As the popularity has grown, so has peoples’ dependence on these devices.

“Just last week, the Justice Department filed a ‘statement of interest’ in the case describing and underscoring the increasingly heavy reliance by government workers and characterized in the newspaper article as saying that any injunction against Motion Ltd ‘... would be technically challenging to separate Federal workers from other users.’ The article further stated that NTP, Inc. ‘... has said it wants to exempt all government workers – Federal, State and local – from the injunction and that doing so would be relatively easy.’

“Given the widespread use of these devices among workers at the County of Los Angeles, I believe it would be in our best interest to have County Counsel, in conjunction with the Chief Information Officer, to research the ramifications of potential adverse rulings and/or injunctive relief sought by NTP, Inc. against Research in Motion, Ltd. on County users.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried, the County Counsel and the Chief Information Officer were instructed to report back to the Board in two weeks, by way of a written memo, on potential adverse impacts that the ongoing patent dispute may have on the County and other government agencies and the extent of the exemption from the injunction, if granted.

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Chief Administrative Officer